

Arabs call for U.N. session

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The Arab group Wednesday called for an immediate meeting of the Security Council to resume debate on Israel's policy of establishing settlements in occupied territories. The request was contained in a letter to council President Oleg Troyanovsky of the Soviet Union from Saad Al Battachy, the charge d'affaires of Jordan, current chairman of the Arab group. The council last discussed the settlements issue at a meeting on Nov. 12 that was adjourned indefinitely. The new request is expected to be discussed at previously-scheduled closed-door consultations by council members on their current work schedule.

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S. Arabia receives 2 new warships

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia took delivery of two warships Wednesday, the first of an undisclosed number of ships ordered from the United States, the Saudi Press Agency said. The warships were welcomed to Jubail by ships sounding their sirens as two U.S.-made F-15 fighters flew overhead. The Saudi newspaper Okaz quoted Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz as saying reduced oil revenue would not affect Saudi defence spending. The kingdom has budgeted \$3 billion (S2.7 billion) for defence and security in 1983. Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, has a navy of 2,200 men with nine Corvettes and a number of coastal patrol craft at six bases on the Gulf and the Red Sea, according to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies.

Arafat holds talks in Jeddah

BAHRAIN (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat held talks in Jeddah Wednesday with Saudi Defence Minister Prince Sultan Ibn Abdul Aziz and Foreign Minister Saud Al Faisal, the Saudi Press Agency said. The agency said only that the discussions centred on several Arab issues, but it is thought Mr. Arafat briefed the Saudi officials on his latest round of talks in Jordan, which he visited prior to his visit to Saudi Arabia. Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, arrived in Jeddah from Amman Tuesday night. He was accompanied by his top military aide Khalil Al Wazir.

Fahd confers with Libyan minister

BAHRAIN (R) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia met the Libyan oil minister, Kamel Hassan Al Makhour, in Jeddah Wednesday for what Gulf analysts said would probably be talks on a crisis within the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC). The Saudi Press Agency said the meeting was attended by Ahmad Ibn Mohammed Qazzaf, described as a special envoy of Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi, and Saudi Minister of State Mohammad Ibrahim Massoud. The agency gave no details of the visit, which marked the first by a senior Libyan official to Saudi Arabia since a Riyadh decided last month to return its ambassador to Tripoli. Saudi Arabia broke off relations with Tripoli in October, 1980, after Libya criticised the kingdom for obtaining United States surveillance planes to protect its oilfields at the start of the Iran-Iraq war. OPEC members are trying to head off a possible sharp fall in oil prices as some members undercut official OPEC prices to boost their share of the world market.

Reagan appeals to Moscow to match 'good faith'

WASHINGTON (R) — President Reagan appealed to the Soviet Union Wednesday to match what he called his own good faith in negotiations to reduce nuclear and conventional arms. He said in a message to Congress that his goal was to reach agreements producing international security and stability and to deter aggression against the United States and its allies. Mr. Reagan's letter, which accompanied the annual report of the U.S. arms control and disarmament agency, said: "We are encouraged by the serious and businesslike conduct of these negotiations so far. "Although much hard bargaining lies ahead, I am determined to bargain in good faith until our objectives can be realised. We urge our Soviet negotiating partners equal seriousness of purpose."

Israel cabinet postpones decision on Sharon's future

TEL AVIV (R) — The Israeli cabinet Wednesday night postponed a decision on the future of disgraced Defence Minister Ariel Sharon, whose dismissal has been recommended by a judicial inquiry.

The cabinet, under mounting pressure to sack Mr. Sharon because of his indirect role in last September's Beirut massacre of Palestinians, met for three hours.

Officials said it would convene again Thursday.

The cabinet's decision followed an appeal from Chief of Staff Rafael Eitan that ministers should allow two generals censored by the inquiry to put their case to the government, cabinet sources said.

The two generals, military intelligence chief Yehoshua Sagiv and Beirut commander Amos Yaron, were both severely criticised by the judicial inquiry for failing to foresee the dangers of sending Lebanese militia into Palestinian refugee camps.

The inquiry recommended that Gen. Sagiv be dismissed from his post and Brig. Yaron be barred from holding a field command for three years.

Gen. Eitan, who was himself denounced by the inquiry for dereliction of duty, attended Wednesday night's cabinet.

During the meeting, hundreds of right-wing demonstrators waited outside, waving banners urging Prime Minister Menachem Begin not to dismiss Mr. Sharon.

State television said Attorney-General Yitzhak Zamir advised the ministers to accept all the recommendations of the Kahan inquiry, whose 108-page report Tuesday set off a political crisis.

After about two hours, Mr. Sharon left the cabinet meeting to attend a reception for the visiting Zaire defence minister.

Mounted police and soldiers with rifles tried to keep the demonstrators, many wearing knitted skullcaps, outside the courtyard of the prime minister's office.

But they broke through and mobbed Mr. Sharon's car as he drove in. More crowds converged on the building and a police officer estimated over 1,000 demonstrators were at the scene.

A day after the inquiry published its explosive report into the massacre, Mr. Sharon, 54, had given no signal he was prepared to spare Mr. Begin embarrassment by resigning.

Taking the offensive, the hawkish defence minister said he would fight to save the careers of army generals and commanders who, like him, were censured by the inquiry.

Earlier in Tel Aviv, Mr. Sharon summoned the military general staff and told them he would urge the cabinet not to implement the inquiry's recommendations.

Mr. Sharon, whose speech was later leaked to correspondents, said if the inquiry's recommendations were followed it would impair the army's fighting capability.

The prime minister, anxious not to alienate right-wing voters by dismissing Mr. Sharon, has made no public statement on the inquiry's report. He spent much of the day consulting coalition partners.

Israeli newspapers and opposition politicians were nearly unanimous Wednesday in calling for the speedy implementation of all the report's recommendations.

Government sources who asked not to be identified said that a majority of ministers now wanted Mr. Sharon to step down.

Survivors scoff at massacre inquiry report, page 8

Iraq reports renewed fighting

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq Wednesday reported further bloodshed in a major battle that has developed following a new Iranian offensive in the 29-month-old Gulf war.

An Iraqi military spokesman said about 400 attacking Iranians were killed Tuesday, but he gave no indication of Iraqi losses.

According to the Iraqis, Iran has hurled large formations against Iraq's Fourth Army Corps which is defending the border along a battlefield of 30 to 40 kilometres located broadly to the east of the town of Amara.

Media correspondents were not allowed up to the battle line because of the latest Iranian attack. But Iraqi newspaper photographs suggest the terrain is flat and the Iranians must advance through barbed wire entanglements.

The Iranian news agency, IRNA, Wednesday gave no details of ground battles in the area, but said both Iranian and Iraqi forces had been locked in artillery duels in the northern sector of the front.

It said 100 Iraqis had been killed or wounded on the northern fronts:

Tehran Radio, monitored in London, said Iranian air defence units had foiled attempts by Iraqi planes to bomb the western city of Islam, a major target of Iraqi air raids since the war broke out 29 months ago.

IRNA said later that Iraqi long-range artillery had shelled the southern city of Abadan, killing four people and wounding eight.

It said the Iranians retaliated by pounding Iraqi military positions in eastern Iraq.

Egyptian envys in Iraq

The Egyptian minister of state for foreign affairs, Boutros Ghali, arrived in Baghdad Wednesday, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) said.

He was accompanied by an adviser to President Hosni Mubarak, Osama Al Baz, on the trip, the first reported visit by senior Egyptian officials to Baghdad for several years.

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Appeal to U.N.

Iraq has urged the United Nations to help end the war. In a telegram to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, published Wednesday, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Tareq Aziz said Iraqi forces had been able to repel the first wave of the Iranian attack.

Iraqi general describes 'decisive' battle, page 8

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Shultz: U.S. to continue Vietnam's isolation

HONG KONG (R) — U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Wednesday the United States would continue its policy of seeking to isolate Vietnam as long as it backed the Heng Samrin regime in Kampuchea.

Mr. Shultz, winding up a 12-day Asian tour, told reporters Vietnam's behaviour "is outside the pale."

He also linked his tour to that of U.S. Vice-President George Bush, now in Europe seeking support for American policy on deployment of nuclear missiles there.

The secretary of state said Vietnam had isolated itself by its actions, both economically and in the United Nations where a majority has repeatedly voted to recognise the Khmer Rouge government overthrown by the Hanoi-backed forces of Heng Samrin.

The United States supports a three-member opposition coalition headed by Prince Norodom Sihanouk whom Mr. Shultz met in Peking during his current tour.

Of the Vietnamese, he said: "Their behaviour is outside the pale. We oppose what they are doing and I do not think there is anything to be gained by changing our stance in that regard."

Mr. Shultz said the United States and China shared the objective of getting the Vietnamese out of Kampuchea and allowing the emergence of a government "responsive to the will of the people."

ARANYAPRATHET, Thailand (Agencies) — Rival forces Wednesday traded heavy artillery fire along the Thai-Kampuchean border opposite several encampments housing tens of thousands of refugees, front-line reporters said.

On the diplomatic front, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Kapitsa left Bangkok Wednesday for Hanoi at the end of a three-nation tour of non-Communist Southeast Asia that had also taken him to Indonesia and Malaysia.

The thunder of incoming and outgoing grounds began reverberating in this frontier town, 250 kilometres east of Bangkok, where KPNLF garrisons.

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HOME NEWS

Maldives minister wants closer ties with Arab and Islamic nations

AMMAN (Petra) — The Maldives want stronger relations with Arab and Islamic nations, and supports their causes, especially the struggle against Israel, the Islands Minister of Transport Ahmad Mogu Thana said here Wednesday.

Mr. Thana, who arrived for a 24 hour visit to Jordan, said his country considers Israel's occupation of Arab lands and holy places as a challenge to all Muslim nations. During Israel's invasion of Lebanon, the Maldivian people, led by

their President Ma'moun Abdul Gayoom, staged demonstrations expressing their condemnation of such aggression, Mr. Thana said.

He also thanked Jordan deeply for its role as a prime-mover in attaining his country's acceptance

as a U.N. member nation.

In reply to a question by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Thana said that his country supports the Fez Arab Summit Plan for establishing peace in the Middle East, and backs the struggle of the Palestinian people to regain their homelands.

During the visit Mr. Thana is expected to hold talks with Transport Minister Ali Suhaimat and other senior Jordanian officials.



His Majesty King Hussein and Princess Haya visit the tomb of the late Queen Alia. (Petra photo)



The Maldives Islands Minister of Transport, Ahmad Mogu Thana, holds discussions with Jordanian officials during his 24 hour visit. (Petra photo)

Feasibility study to be commissioned for compound chemical fertiliser factory

AMMAN (Petra) — The Arab Potash Company (APC), the Jordan Fertiliser Industry Company (JFIC) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) are currently cooperating in the marketing of fertiliser products abroad while trying to boost output at home, according to APC Director-General and Chairman of the three companies' joint Coordination Committee Ali Khasawneh.

He said that Jordan has two of the basic elements needed to produce chemical fertilisers, namely potash and phosphates, but lacks the third necessary element of nitrogen, which is found in abundance in Arab oil producing countries.

Our priority now is to establish a factory for producing compound chemical fertilisers in cooperation with Arab countries. Dr. Khasawneh added.



Wadi El Yabis marketing centre in the Jordan Valley (Photo: Margi Bryant)

British Institute assesses marketing developments in the Jordan Valley

By Margi Bryant
Special to the Jordan Times

A team from Britain's Tropical Products Institute (TPI) Wednesday concluded a ten-day visit to Jordan where they have been assessing agricultural marketing developments in the Jordan Valley. Their visit comes at a time when recent decisions by the Higher Agricultural Council (HAC) have confirmed the vital importance of agricultural marketing to Jordan's overall economic development.

TPI is part of the U.K. Overseas Development Administration, and its area of responsibility covers everything that happens to a crop after harvesting—including storage, transportation, processing, quality control and marketing.

TPI first became involved in the Jordan Valley in 1977 when they carried out the feasibility study for the Wadi El Yabis marketing centre. This resulted in an ODA project loan of £1.45 million (JD 1 million at then-prevailing values) towards the JD 1.3 million total cost of the centre, and the provision of two long-term technical advisers to the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA). The feasibility study report stressed the importance of quality control in agricultural produce and packaging if Jordan was to maintain—let alone improve—its position as an exporter of fresh fruit and vegetables to neighbouring Arab countries.

The Wadi El Yabis marketing centre is the second in a string of four sorting, grading, packaging

and auctioning centres which the JVA is building in the Valley to replace the old local assembly markets. The first centre, at El Arda, was built with Dutch aid and opened for a trial run in 1981, but has since been turned over to tomato paste-processing.

Wadi El Yabis was substantially completed last year and is expected to commence operations in the forthcoming season. Its design and consultant engineering were by the British firm Covell Matthews, with construction by the Jordanian company Development Engineering Ltd.

The centre contains two large grading and packaging lines for tomatoes, with throughput capacities of ten and six tonnes per hour, two small tomato lines with hourly capacities of two tonnes each, and two lines for other vegetables with hourly capacities of five tonnes each. All the equipment comes from Roda International of Italy. The centre also has a large auction hall and a box factory, and a cold store may be added later.

With construction of Wadi El Yabis completed, and two more centres—at South Shuneh and Safi—under way, problems have arisen over the context in which the marketing centres are going to operate. Though built under JVA auspices, they were intended to be run by the Jordan Valley Farmers' Association, but it soon became clear that the Association—a fairly young organisation with experience primarily in the spheres of credit and farm supply—was clearly not ready to take on the job of

running the centres. ODA and the other funding agencies have also been concerned that the centres were likely to exist in a vacuum, having no defined role in any broader marketing and export strategy. These worries have now been somewhat allayed by the decision of the Higher Agricultural Council (HAC) to form two agricultural marketing organisations—one a joint public/private sector company which will run the marketing centres, and the other a regulatory body to enforce quality control in produce and packaging.

The most important recent development on Jordan's agricultural scene is this twin-yolked egg which the HAC is hatching. Mr. Mike Morgan Rees, deputy director of TPI, told the Jordan Times. The regulatory body was the most important of the two, he added, as it would force farmers and traders to aim for the high standards which the markets in other Arab countries—especially Saudi Arabia and the Gulf—now demand.

At the same time, said Mr. Morgan Rees, a lot of good market research is needed in order to identify the most promising export outlets and their requirements. "This has been a neglected area so far," he added.

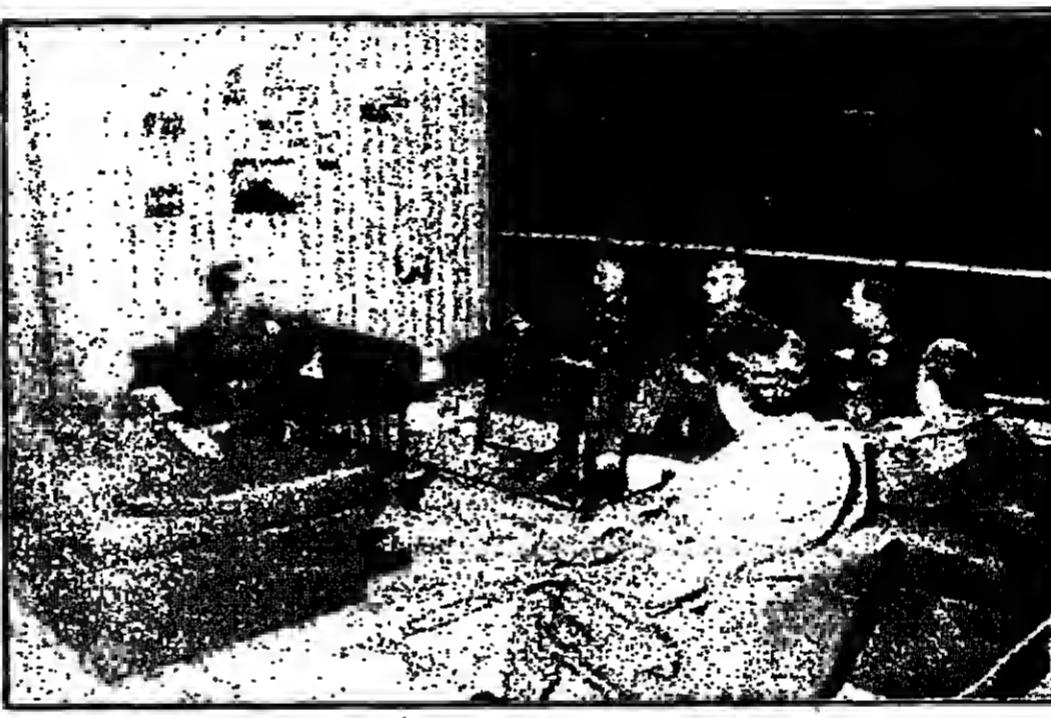
Though Britain is keeping its involvement fairly low-key until the new organisations actually come into being, there are hints that the ODA would consider assisting either or both organisations with financial and/or technical assistance.

Hussein marks the sixth anniversary of Alia's death

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday visited the tomb of the late Queen Alia on the sixth anniversary of her death.

where he recited verses of the Holy Koran. He was accompanied by his daughter Princess Haya.

Queen Alia died in a helicopter crash in 1977 between Amman and Madaba.



Jordanian armed forces Commander-in-Chief Zaid Ibn Shaker (second from left) holds talks with a Pakistani military delegation. (Petra photo)

Pakistani military delegation meets the Jordanian Commander-in-Chief

AMMAN (Petra) — A Pakistani military delegation had a meeting here Wednesday with the Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Lt.-Gen. Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. The meeting was attended by Army Chief of Staff Fethi Abu

Talib.

The delegation arrived in Amman Wednesday morning for a visit to Jordan expected to last several days. Its members will hold talks with the Jordanian military, and will tour army installations and positions as well as archaeological sites in the country.

Upon arriving in Amman the delegation was met by senior government army officers, the Pakistani ambassador to Jordan Prof. Ehsan Rashid, and embassy staff.

3-day seminar on Islam and the modern economy opens at the University

AMMAN (Petra) — A three-day seminar on the Islamic economy and its inter-relationships with modern economic systems opened at the University of Jordan Wednesday under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

University President Abdul Salam Al Majali, who deputised for Prince Hassan, made the main address at the opening session, in which he called on the participants to find ways of applying Islamic rules in resolving modern economic problems.

The seminar is designed to give specialists the chance to try to tackle economic problems in the Arab and Islamic worlds by implementing Islamic economic principles, Dr. Majali said. He said Islam had prescribed rules for solving problems related to economic, commercial, industrial and agricultural issues, and experts are invited to try to make use of them.

Other speakers in the first session included the university's Economy and Commerce Faculty Dean Dr. Wadie Sharaiha, and Dr. Nouri Al Qaisi from the Iraqi Research and Studies Institute.

who also called on the participants to apply Islamic laws in solving economic problems in the Arab and Islamic worlds.

The delegates, representing seven Arab countries, will be discussing how Islamic principles affect labour-related issues, economic planning, land ownership, monetary policies. Taking part in the seminar are representatives from Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Abu Dhabi, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Syria.

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FEATURES

Kremlin in search of better deal for the man in the street

By Brian Killen
Reuter

MOSCOW — The Soviet government has issued a decree calling for a better deal for the man in the street, apparently part of a concerted drive by the new leadership to improve the Kremlin's image at home.

Since coming to power in November, Soviet leader Yuri Andropov has spearheaded a vigorous campaign for better services and increased efficiency.

His clear intention has been to shake the inertia out of the Soviet economic system but some Western diplomats have noted a degree

of public relations work behind the efficiency drive.

The decree said shortcomings in service industries indirectly harmed the economy because long queues at food shops and delays in other services left people with less time for work and it called for "the needs of the Soviet people to be met more fully and better."

One diplomat said: "Much of this new decree is pure public relations, but it ties in with recent unusual reports of politburo meetings and the new style of leadership."

Under Mr. Andropov, the Soviet leadership has published a series of accounts of Communist

Party politburo meetings, apparently reflecting the Kremlin's desire to show that it is working in the public interest.

Poliburo sessions are not normally mentioned in the Soviet press and during Leonid Brezhnev's 18 years as party leader they were shrouded in secrecy and anonymity.

The latest decree and the politburo accounts appear to be part of a skillfully-conducted campaign aimed at popularising the view that the new Kremlin leaders are not only aware of the problems of the long-suffering Soviet consumer but are doing something about them.

At the latest politburo meeting the leadership was reported to have discussed shortcomings in service industries. It promised that the authorities would try to make shopping easier by improving the country's lagging service sector.

Shortly afterwards, the new decree was issued.

It was preceded by stinging complaints published in the state-controlled media that followed a pattern similar to that used before the publication of two previous major decrees.

A letter published under the heading "every service should be kind" appeared recently in the government newspaper Izvestia. It called for an end to sloppy

service in shops, laundries and dining rooms and complained of long delays in repairs and in receiving goods which had been ordered and paid for.

"Customers often haunt the thresholds of repair shops for months and even years," the letter said.

Lorry drivers, waiters, taxi drivers, piano tuners and even nurses thought that there was nothing shameful in asking for a little extra over and above what they were offered according to official prices, it added.

The decree said there would be longer opening hours for shops, repair shops, clinics and other services "so that it will be more convenient for working people."

Another major decree issued under Mr. Andropov's tenure concerned shortcomings in the transport system. This same topic was also reported to have been discussed at a politburo meeting and had been the subject of fierce press criticism.

Most food shops are already open until 8 p.m. but supplies of most foods are sold out by then.

The decree did not say how the new measures would be carried out, nor did it allocate government funds, but simply said that various ministries, were charged with

implementing the proposals.

Few would argue that it will be an extremely difficult and long process to change the Soviet Union's retail trade network and reduce the country's bottlenecks and lengthy queues.

Press articles have pointed out that a whole new infrastructure is required -- modern sewing machines, pressing machines, better transport, cash registers and much more.

The scale of the task facing Mr. Andropov is enormous. Soviet scientists have calculated that in one year alone the population spends about 125 million man-hours on domestic chores.

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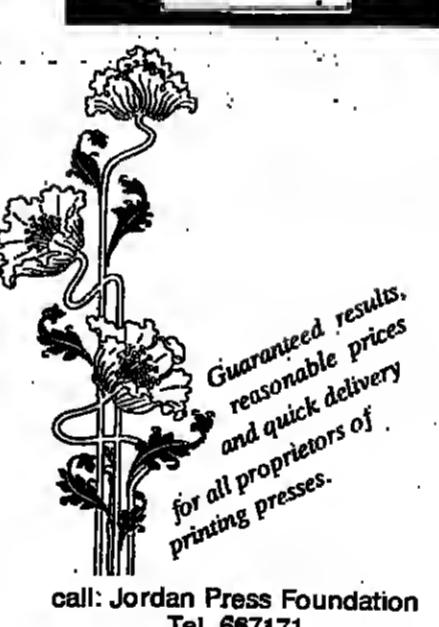
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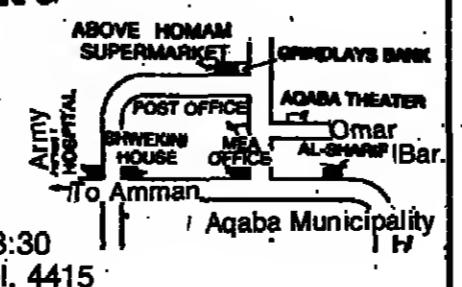
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What 'moral' obligation?

ANSWERING questions from television personalities in the Washington area earlier this week, U.S. President Ronald Reagan said Israel is "unnecessarily delaying" the withdrawal of its forces from Lebanon and sort of accused Israeli leaders of "neglecting" their "moral" obligation not to become an occupying force there. Those same Israeli leaders had the "morality" to send the Lebanese rightists to massacre hundreds of Palestinians in their Beirut refugee camps in September, but that is of course besides the point: the president could only pour words of praise on the "democratic" process inside Israel following the publication of the Kahane commission's findings on the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

The question now is: for how much longer can the U.S. president and his administration afford to hear the echo of their own sound when talking to their Israeli friends? Words of praise uttered or the threat of cutting U.S. aid to the Jewish state totally eliminated, for how much longer can he pretend that Israel will eventually come to grips with itself and seek peace on voluntary bases?

AMERICAN inability to secure an early Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon and getting an

immediate freeze on new Jewish settlements in the West Bank seem to have already swung opinion among the Arabs, but mainly within the Palestinian camp, against seeking a diplomatic solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict—the American style. What will Washington now do? Wait for Sharon to go, or for the entire Begin government to fall?

The Americans generally tend to think that they always have a good chance to succeed where others fail, and consequently there is no need to worry about them making it in the Middle East this time. In fact, our problem in the Arab World has not been so much worry about the Americans, because we know that, like the great people they are, they can look after themselves and their interests and that they have the superpower to do it. What should pose a big problem for all of us, however, is that their basic assumptions about the whole problem of Palestine are not adequate to bring any kind of fruitful results. Just when did Begin and Sharon, and those who put them in power, ever have any "moral" obligation other than to themselves and to their Zionist dreams? Can the American president remember and tell us?

JORDAN'S ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra': Kahane report exposes the Israeli criminals

The massacres of Palestinian refugees in Beirut shocked the world and exposed the callous face of Israel, which, for the past three decades, has managed to deceive the international community. Therefore it was necessary for the Kahane judicial inquiry to apply plastic surgery to improve Israel's image.

The commission's report, which incriminated Shurin, Begin and other Zionist criminals, has in fact pinpointed the most abominable pustules in Israel's face. The surgery however cannot present the Israeli face in a new democratic image and thus deceive the world, since crime and democracy can never go hand in hand.

We can though, conclude the following from the

Al Dustour: Inquiry reveals ugly

face of Zionism

Sharon, Begin and other Zionists, condemned by the report, represent Israel's true fanaticism and insanity, and the state's lust for blood and killing.

The Kahane report has now succeeded in presenting to the whole world the true facts and the ugly image of Israel, which Zionism had tried to conceal. Israel is no longer the oasis that is surrounded by Arab deserts, nor is it the source of light and the beacon of democracy in the region. The report has proved that Israel is the region's hot-bed of evil, with its army carrying out massacres and committing acts of genocide.

Sawt Al Shabab: Commission tries to minimise Israeli crimes

When Israel's crimes in the Sabra and Shatila camps shocked the world, the outcry forced Menachem Begin's government to set up a commission of inquiry to determine those responsible for the massacre. The commission's report published Tuesday, although it incriminates a number of Zionists, does not have the power to impose penalties on the criminals. It can only thus to be considered as an attempt to deceive the world and present Israel as a

democratic state.

The world should remember that Sabra and Shatila represent only one stage of Israel's long series of crimes against the Arab people in general, and the Palestinians in particular. The report is designed to minimise the crime and limit its responsibility to a number of persons, so that Israel as a whole can escape world condemnation.

Swaziland is no battleground for other peoples' wars

By Rodney Pinder

MIBABANE, Swaziland — South African pressure on Swaziland has prompted a crackdown on black refugees from the republic — the Pretoria government considers its foes.

A few months ago, a refugee leaving South Africa was able to breath easy once he had climbed the two metre fence which marks the frontier. But today, the refugees are causing critical concern in Mbabane, capital of Swaziland, traditionally a political and racial crossroads, diplomatic sources say.

The lessons of South Africa's commando raid into neighbouring Lesotho in December are not lost on Swaziland, which, unlike Lesotho, has been used by guerrillas as a springboard for attacks on South Africa.

The commandos attacked alleged bases of the African National Congress (ANC) and killed 42 people. Lesotho denied the largest South African guerrilla group had any military set up there and said the dead were refugees or Lesotho nationals. Since then, however, the Swazi government has pledged it will not allow itself to be used as a battleground for other people's wars.

Kingdom of mountains

Swaziland is the smallest nation in southern Africa, bigger than Kuwait but smaller than Massachusetts and about the same size as Wales. Its 500,000 people inhabit a kingdom of mountains tumbling into bush and plains,

gripped by South Africa on three sides and with its back against Mozambique.

Since independence from Britain in 1968, Swaziland has been forced to be circumspect in its foreign relations, staying friendly with both the Marxist black rulers in Maputo and the devoutly anti-Communist whites of Pretoria.

Hitching a ride in a truck, he will make for the Swaziland border. A sympathetic black driver may drop him 2 km short of the frontier and leave him to make his own way to the fence. Instantly he is over, the man is a refugee and an enemy of the republic by the fact of leaving it illegally. No black South African exile will speak to a strange white reporter visiting Swaziland — fear silences them, knowledgeable sources say.

Last month, two white men, who later identified themselves as South African reporters, were spotted taking pictures of a refugee centre near Mbabane and the inhabitants fled in terror of attack, returning only two days later.

The ANC began using Swaziland as a transit point about two or three years ago, according to diplomats who, like everyone discussing this sensitive topic, refused to be identified. South African agents, white and black,

infiltrated in return, mingling in bars, casinos and brothels specialising in sex across the colour line.

As ANC attacks did violence inside South Africa increased, so did violence inside Swaziland, with unexplained bombings and shootings, invariably involving black South African exiles. The Swazi government began to take fright, political analysts said. "It's biggest fear is being sucked into a South African war," said one.

Grave consequences

Increasingly, alleged ANC men appeared in court on arms charges. Diplomats said there was about one case a month in 1982. And the high court in Mbabane issued a statement promising "the gravest consequences" for refugees and "freedom fighters in particular", found with firearms.

Workers on the ground, however, say it is difficult to know how strong the ANC connection is.

Swazi police reacted to the Lesotho raid by taking 27 people into protective custody — the government denied they had been detained — and 10 left soon after for Mozambique.

Swaziland depends on South Africa for survival. Its money and food come from there.

RED & BLACK

By Jawad Ahmad

Their man in Bolivia

These days are trying to all those concerned with waging peace in the Middle East. There seemed to be, for the first time, some kind of unanimity that Israel is on the wrong side and that she must be pressured to give in for the sake of peace.

For observers of the area, Begin's Israel is a peace-hater and decided so. If one puts oneself in the shoes of this Begin, how would one react to the circumstances that are not going Begin's way?

First, one would try to disturb the current fragile quietness in the area. This can be done by instigating Druze and Phalangists to fight it out, or by planting explosives here and there and/or by stepping on the toes of American peace-keeping marines in Lebanon. Of course larger schemes can be contemplated.

Second: Israel can review its marketability as the agent

which implements America's ugly tricks in the area. The latest of these is the recently published report of an Israeli scheme to conquer the Gulf area through Jordan. Such reports serve to ensure Israeli superiority as well as serviceability to its masters in the U.S.A.

Third: Israel of course would try to damage the image of Arabs and Palestinians particularly the latter who have gained a great deal of sympathy after the Sabra and Shatila massacres.

Begin and company should worry a great deal over their election chances particularly since the Kahane report on the massacres incriminated Sharon among others. Apparently, in order to absorb the shock, Sharon tried to coerce the Lebanese into accepting some form of normalisation.

When the Lebanese strangled by U.S.A., refused a speedy normalisation, it is my

guess that Sharon's embarrassment and fear of the Kahane report compounded.

Against such a background, when the Israelis find it difficult to tarnish the reputation of Palestinians, they are left with one option—old but often tried with success.

The option this time came from Bolivia. Choose an ex-Nazi from a God-forsaken Latin-American country, drum up a story that this bespectacled 69-year-old man is the villain he was 40 years ago. I am not defending the Nazi crimes, nobody would. But no one should allow Sharon and Begin to hide their crimes in the dust of a crime committed 40 years ago.

The man from Bolivia is already stealing the show. He is helping Shamir on his European tour.

Europe, Europe! The Arabs deserve a much better treatment from you!..

Strategic arms negotiations

Breakthrough hopes are rapidly fading

By Sidney Welland

Reuter

GENEVA — U.S. and Soviet negotiators are back at work bargaining on strategic arms, but earlier hopes of a breakthrough this year seem to be fading rapidly.

The arms control spotlight has suddenly switched away from the strategic talks, focussing instead on separate U.S.-Soviet negotiations to limit European-based missiles.

Western officials say Moscow's chief goal for 1983 is to halt or reduce the planned deployment of U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, and that the Kremlin will "sit tight" on long-range weapons until the European issue is resolved.

Both sets of weapons have awesome strike power, but the "Euromissiles", to be sited relatively close to the Soviet Union, are seen by Moscow as more immediately threatening. While Soviet negotiators in Geneva say virtually nothing in public about the backstage bargaining, other Communists agree that the spark has gone out of the seven-month-long strategic talks for the time being.

U.S. negotiator Edward Rowny only a few weeks ago rated the chances of a strategic agreement in 1983 as 50-50. Now he says he prefers not to gamble on a timetable. Western officials insist nothing has happened inside the negotiations to induce gloom or anxiety, with both sides apparently standing by the proposals they tabled last summer.

They say their caution is prompted only because the talks on intercontinental weapons reopened this week as public debate intensified over how to handle the European missiles.

Unless agreement can be reached in the medium-range talks by late this year, NATO plans to start deploying the first of 572 U.S. Pershing-2 and Cruise missiles in Western Europe.

A U.S.-proposed "zero option" would ban all medium-range weapons from Europe. Moscow has offered a tradeoff that would leave 162 of the SS-20 missiles it

has already deployed in place to match existing British and French nuclear weapons.

President Reagan is under pressure from European allies to compromise in an interim solution, and Vice-President George Bush, in Europe this week, assured NATO governments the U.S. was ready to listen to any serious new Soviet proposals.

The U.S. strongest in-sea-based and airborne missiles, wants bombers to be left until a later stage.

By asking for heavier cuts in land-based weapons, the U.S. is seeking to neutralise weapons which represent about two-thirds of Moscow's strategic warheads potential.

How to police an eventual agreement remains an overriding American concern, with no sign so far that the Kremlin is ready to yield on its long-time refusal to accept on-site inspection. If no progress can be made in the coming months, U.S. officials say, attention may shift to American plans for a side accord that would involve exchanges of data on missile tests and other exercises to help reduce the risk of accidental war.

the two categories, some Western experts have suggested the twin negotiations may have to be merged to get real results.

But they say it is too early to think of merging. Soviet leader Yuri Andropov's offer to scale down SS-20 deployments in Europe to match British and French land-and-sea-based missiles has been rejected by the West on grounds that the allied weapons are not involved in the negotiations and are strategic rather than medium-range. This is disputed by Moscow.

Both Britain and France have said they may be ready to negotiate if the U.S. and Soviet strategic cuts are big enough to change the global nuclear equation significantly.

A new issue has arisen with growing Japanese fears that Soviet missiles withdrawn from Europe under a U.S.-Soviet deal might be switched to face Asia from the Soviet far east.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on a visit to Tokyo last week told the Japanese their interests would be protected. Some Western officials believe the strategic negotiations, in which the U.S. is seeking a one-third cut in warheads and a limit of 850 missiles on each side, may stay blocked until Mr. Reagan and Mr. Andropov agree to meet for a first summit.

Mr. Reagan last week offered to meet the Soviet leader if he would sign a "zero option" treaty on European-based missiles, but he was quickly rebuffed by Mr. Andropov who said the president had set "patently unacceptable" preconditions.

Meeting possible

The Soviet leader said he favoured a summit in principle, and there is a growing feeling among diplomatic observers that a meeting may become possible later this year, especially if Mr. Reagan decides to run for re-election in 1984.

Apart from negotiations on numbers, there are other big hurdles to overcome in seeking a strategic agreement. The Soviet Union, in pressing for nuclear delivery systems on each side to be brought down to 1,800, wants to include about 500 U.S. heavy bombers in the counting.

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Too early for merging

Because some weapons such as nuclear bombers and missiles aboard submarines in European waters are in grey areas between

LETTERS

Whose Responsibility?

To the Editor:

Everyone who viewed the documentary shown on Jordan TV on the evening of Feb. 8 concerning the brutal massacre of Palestinian civilians at Sabra and Shatila last September must have felt total revulsion for the indescribable degeneracy of the armed men who performed the acts. Presentation of the programme was informative and useful, even though it suffers from the particular biases and hypocrisies of the Israeli context in which it was prepared.

Informed viewers quickly realised that the programme projected a deceptive image of an Israel which had never before been associated with such inhumane acts against Palestinians and that the events in south Beirut of last September were contrary to the moral nature of Israelis. No reference was even made to the earlier association of prominent Israeli officials with terrorism or violence against innocent civilians, although such information would have added understanding to the lack of concern they had about first reports of the slaughter — until forced to take note of the grisly events by international attention.

Does no-one remember that Menachem Begin was once leader of the Irgun, which held that any means necessary was justified by the goal of fulfilling its national aspirations? It seems forgotten that his organisation blew up a wing of the King David Hotel in 1946, killing some hundred British, Arab and Jewish employees of the Government of Palestine, or that in April 1948, his organisation massacred nearly a hundred Arab civilians in order to seize their village of Deir Yasin just outside Jerusalem, according to Begin in order to set up a landing field there.

Has it been overlooked that present Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir was a leader of the murderous Stern Gang, notorious for shooting the U.N. mediator dead in 1948 because his recommendations did not suit Zionist policy? Does no-one remember that the Israeli Defence Forces repeatedly, between 1953 and 1967, crossed the Armistice Demarcation Lines to terrorise and kill civilians? An officer in the first major raid of that sort, against the Palestinian village of Qibya in October 1953, was none other than Ariel Sharon, who is now expected to feel remorse about Sabra and Shatila. Sharon and his men slaughtered more than 50 civilians at Qibya. Almost every high officer in the Israeli Defence

Forces at one time or another took part in such violence against civilians.

The TV programme under review conforms to the myth newly created that Israel was always fair and humane until the questionable decision to invade Lebanon in 1982. The has been a chance, but it is not that Israel has been led into evil ways by the Begin government. Israeli treatment of Palestinians and any other Arab civilians who get in its way has always been callous and inhumane. What has changed is that the real face of the Zionist state is being given wide exposure to public view and that Israelis are being forced to respond.

The programme's commentator at least twice tried to add "other Arab states" to the list of those he thought shared responsibility for the Beirut massacres. He asserted that their guilt lay in failing "to take the Palestinians in," implying that the normal or acceptable final solution for Palestinians would have been their forced dispersal to Arab countries at a distance from Israel without regard to the economic social and political obstacles. One must ask what more reasonable place there is for Palestinians "to be taken" than their own homeland, now under Israeli occupation.

Azraq excavation may update history of eastern Jordan

Text and photo
by Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A recent survey of the desert area around Azraq has provided a "British-led archaeological team with considerable new information that will help reconstruct the climate, topography and human activity of eastern Jordan during the past 40,000 years.

The team, led by Dr. Andrew Garrard, Assistant Director of the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History, spent the month of September 1982 surveying four different areas within the Azraq Basin, a huge region of some 12,000 square kilometres. The main aim of the survey was to study the geomorphology (soils, earth surface, topography) of the area as well as any biological materials (bones, seeds, pollen) that may have been trapped in the earth in ancient times.

More specifically, Dr. Garrard told the Jordan Times in a recent interview, the team was also seeking stratified sites of the Upper Paleolithic-to-Chalcolithic periods (40,000-4,000 B.C.) which could be excavated in future seasons. When all the material from these activities is collected and analysed, the archaeologists should be able to reconstruct the hydrological and climatic history of the Azraq Basin, as well as understand cultural and economic developments in the area during a period which is something of a dark age in Jordanian archaeology.

Dr. Garrard chose the Azraq area because he had realised during his doctoral work at Cambridge University in the late 1970's that nobody had made any sustained investigations into the development pastoralism in the arid areas of the Middle East. Most work on early domestication had traditionally concentrated on sites in the Fertile Crescent's moist regions, such as the Lebanon-Palestine coast and the great river systems of Syria and Iraq. This was rather understandable, given that ancient cultural development tended to take place in the fertile areas, and the inaccessibility of the desert. Those archaeologists who did work on Stone Age material also tended to focus on cave sites, where, stratigraphy and preservation tended to be better than in open sites.

A brief survey was conducted in the Azraq area in 1975 by Dr. Garrard and Dr. Nicholas Stanley Price, following up earlier indications of prehistoric activity from brief archaeological and

hydrological expeditions from the 1930's to the early 1970's. That survey recorded over 50 occurrences of prehistoric material, ranging in date from the Lower Paleolithic to the Chalcolithic ages.

A larger project was needed, Dr. Garrard concluded, and this was finally undertaken last September. The team consisted of Dr. Garrard, Dr. Francoise Hivernel, Mr. Paul Harvey, Mr. Brian Byrd and Mr. Khalid Abu Ghaniemeh of the Jordanian Department of Antiquities.

The team was certain that it would find a good deal of ancient material, as previous surveys had indicated that desert sites are almost always very well preserved, because of the lack of human disturbance, such as construction activity or ploughing for farming. Sites tend to be disturbed only by natural phenomena, such as weathering, erosion or deposition of new layers of soil.

The Azraq Basin was chosen because it formed a huge lake in ancient times, and as this lake increased, or decreased in size, and ultimately dried up, it collected at its bottom many successive layers of soil, clay, and animal deposits that were sealed into the earth of the former lake bed. Also, the ancient lake would have attracted animals and people along its shoreline, and they would have left behind signs of their presence and the nature of their activity, in the form of their own bones, tools or simple housing structures or shelters.

If some of these sites could be identified and investigated, Dr. Garrard explained, one could better understand the origins of herding in the arid regions of the Middle East.

A period of particular interest to the team was the Upper Paleolithic (40,000-18,000 B.C.), the period immediately after the disappearance of Neanderthal man, which ushered in human beings who would be hard to distinguish from contemporary man. This was also the start of a relatively warm and wet climatic period, following the very cold and dry period between 80,000 and 40,000 B.C. Soon after 40,000 B.C., several large lakes formed in the area of modern Jordan, including lakes at Azraq, Jafra (east of Maan) and the Dead Sea.

It is unclear whether in this period Jordan enjoyed rainfall all year round, or whether the rains came only in the winter months, as they do today. But it is known that this was a time when the climatic and environmental conditions for human habitation were propitious

— and therefore it is all the more mysterious why very few sites from this period have been discovered or excavated in the Middle East. There has been very little evidence to date of Upper Paleolithic human activity in the desert areas of the Middle East, though Dr. Garrard suggests this could be because modern archaeologists are perhaps not recognising the skimpy remains of the small-group, transient camp-site lifestyle of those very ancient residents of eastern Jordan.

From 18,000 to 10,000 B.C., the weather turned cold and dry once again, and the large lakes of Jordan largely dried up (with the exception of the Dead Sea, or Lake Lisan, as the ancient lake has been designated).

Between 10,000 and 6,000 B.C., the climatic cycle made a full revolution yet again, and the area became warmer and wetter. From about 6,000 B.C. until today, the weather of Jordan seems to have remained consistent, though the topography would have been different in past millennia, with more forests and vegetation that exist today.

These climatic cycles, and the parallel cycles of human, animal and plant life, would be well documented in and around ancient lakes and riverbeds. The team led by Dr. Garrard set out to find and study the remains and the sediments of this enormous period of some 40,000 years in the Azraq Basin, with a particular interest in documenting the beginnings of pastoralism in the arid zone and comparing this with the start of animal husbandry and village life in the fertile areas of the Middle East. The perennial springs and the expansive prehistoric lake deposits at the centre of the Azraq Basin suggested to the archaeologists that the Azraq Basin "may have been a focus for at least seasonal settlement over a long period."

In the first two weeks of the fieldwork, the team stayed at Qasr Kharaneh and surveyed a nearby wadi that ultimately flows into the southwest corner of the Azraq Basin. The team found stratified late Upper Paleolithic/early Kebaran sites in the upper levels of an early alluvial terrace that survives in some parts of the wadi, despite considerable cutting of the valley floor by the meandering wadi. This could be evidence of the terrace's formation in a humid period between 25,000-15,000 B.C., Dr. Garrad suggests.

A total of 22 archaeological sites were recorded in this two-week period, including evidence of stone circles on the surface of

the earth, presumably the remains of foundations for huts or tents. Several sites, in the form of small "domes" or tells only a few metres high, may include stone structures underneath them. Only future excavations will determine this for certain.

Flint, bone and charcoal remains were picked up from several sites, and will be subjected to Carbon-14 dating techniques which will help give precise dates for the sites. One of the more intriguing finds was a flat stone that fits into the palm of one's hand, upon which was engraved a drawing of an ibex and perhaps a hyena.

In the last two weeks of the fieldwork, the team moved its residence to Azraq Castle to work on the Azraq Basin itself, the area of some 700 square kilometres that would have been the bed of the ancient lake.

Geomorphological and archaeological surveying was carried out in several areas of the basin. The day before the survey ended, the team discovered a late Upper Paleolithic/early Kebaran site (25,000-15,000 B.C.) which was stratified in possible seasonal marsh clays beneath the lake deposits. After this site is excavated, Dr. Garrard said, it could provide extremely important dating evidence for the high lake level. On the last day of the fieldwork, another epipaleolithic site was discovered, and a pre-pottery Neolithic B site (7,500-6,000 B.C.) was found about 200 metres from the "shoreline" of the lake, stratified above a travertine layer that may have accumulated, around an old spring.

All this, Dr. Garrard says, indicates that the lake had reached a low level by around 7,500-6,000 B.C. The precise outline of the high lake is not yet known, and cannot always be easily discerned because of more recent depostions on top of the old lake shore level and tectonic disturbances in the southeastern part of the basin. Near the Saudi Arabian border, parts of the earth's surface have been uplifted to an altitude of 560 metres above sea level, well above the level of the ancient lake.

Eleven archaeological sites were identified in this second half of the survey, but tentative dates for them must await analysis of the flint and shell materials that were collected from them.

"The survey proved very rewarding both from an environmental and archaeological viewpoint," Dr. Garrard said. The finding of stratified sites in the upper terrace levels near Kharaneh, and below and above the lake deposits at Azraq, should allow a good reconstruction of the area's climate and water resources during the last 40,000 years. The finding of two apparently Upper Paleolithic sites is generating considerable interest, given the paucity of other sites from this period in the Middle East. The stratified sites near Kharaneh are also important finds, as their apparently rich deposits of bone and charcoal should help recount the sequence of hunting or livestock activities in this area during the closing millennia of the last ice age.

Dr. Garrard hopes to make small excavations at four or five sites later this year, primarily to collect organic material for

Carbon-14 dating and also to check the stratigraphy of the sites. The sites that prove to be the most rewarding will be singled out for larger excavations in future seasons.

The wealth of archaeological material that can be obtained from some of these stone age desert sites has recently been demonstrated by Mr. Mujahid Muhaisen, a Jordanian archaeologist now completing his doctoral studies at Bordeaux University in France. In 1981, he made a small excavation of three trenches in an area near Kharaneh Castle that had plenty of surface flint material from the stone age. He dug down to a depth of only two metres, and from a total excavated area of just eight cubic metres of earth he uncovered 80,000 flint artifacts and 10,000 bone fragments. Carbon-14 dates for the material show the site includes two distinct areas of slightly different time period. One part of the site dates from 8,700-7,900 B.C., while the other dates from 12,000-10,250 B.C. This puts the older half the site in the late Kebaran period, and the other half in the more recent Narwanian era.

If similarly rich sites could be excavated in the area that Dr. Garrard and his team have surveyed, historians could start to reconstruct the early human history of the Middle Eastern deserts that have been largely ignored until now.

The project has been supported by grants from the Wainwright Fund, the British Academy, the Palestine Exploration Fund and the British Institute at Amman for Archaeology and History.

Randa Habib's column

Is this how safety is tested?

A foreigner living in Jordan called me the other day to tell me about his adventure with the traffic department.

I'm sure that you will be interested to hear it.

On the day set for the renewal of his car licence our friend arrived to the traffic department feeling a little bit scared. However, everything was ready. The engine was properly cleaned, he had put on new tyres, a fire extinguisher, a road signal. In short, everything was in good order.

When his turn came, three officers from the department, papers in hand, climbed in his car. What I forgot to tell you is that this day was extremely cold. In fact, this is what the officer talked about:

"Very cold isn't it?" he told our friend with a smile. And that was it!

It seems that the look they got of the interior of the car with its clean seats was enough. The three officers left after telling the owner of the car: "It is OK".

The foreigner was stunned. No checking of the engine, no look at the extinguisher or the tyres. Was that all?

Of course he was delighted to have successfully passed the test, but he couldn't help but think about the seriousness of those tests. This is also why he called me, remembering that in a recent corner wrote about the lack of tire extinguishers in cars.

If the tests are carried out in such a way we can do without them.

That a car is clean, does not automatically mean that it is safe. The body of the car is much less important than the state of the blisters or the brakes. If we truly want to avoid accidents we should start at the very beginning.

Cars should be examined thoroughly. And here I am talking about their security system and not about their appearance.

'Improved Middle East reporting in the U.S.'

WASHINGTON — An American scholar says her countrymen have developed more positive attitudes about the people of the Middle East, thanks to increased United States coverage of Middle Eastern events.

Montague Kern, author and media expert, who specialises in press coverage of Middle Eastern affairs, concludes that American attitudes changed as they became aware of the common concerns they share with countries in the Middle East.

In an interview in Washington, doctor Kern explained that prior to 1977, American television focused on the problems of Israel's survival in an unstable environment.

But public opinion polls began to change following President Arafat Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977. The press reported Sadat's peace effort and then began to expand coverage with more neutral treatment of the Palestinian problem.

"Now what happens in the Middle East affects the United States," Kern said. She added that today the press can mirror American concerns and satisfy the need for expanded news coverage because

of correspondents for U.S. television and newspapers are travelling more.

"Urban newspapers and television want to compete with the New York Times to satisfy their customers so foreign coverage of stories in the Middle East now dominate the news," she said.

Doctor Kern was a visiting scholar and lecturer at Georgetown University in 1981-82. During that time, she completed a study of "television and Middle East diplomacy." President Carter's fall 1977 peace initiative.

At the end of February, she will leave for a four-week tour of the Middle East and South Asia, sponsored by the United States information agency. "I want to go abroad to learn more from scholars, journalists and academics involved in the press and society abroad," she said.

During her trip, which will include stops in Israel, Egypt, Sudan and India, she plans to hold seminars on press coverage of the Middle East in the United States and the role of the press is a free society.

Dr. Kern admitted that the U.S. media still has a way to go in terms of coverage of South Asian affairs.

TV & RADIO

JORDAN TELEVISION

MAIN CHANNEL

04:30 ... Koran

04:30 ... Children's Programme

05:10 ... The Morning Band

06:00 ... News in Arabic

06:30 ... Arabic Series

06:30 ... Arabic Play

News in Arabic

11:00 ... Arabic Series

11:00 ... Arabic Play

News in Arabic

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SPORTS

Australia enjoys 6-wicket victory over N. Zealand

SYDNEY (R) — Australia enjoyed a comfortable six-wicket victory over New Zealand in the first of the triangular World Series cricket cup one-day matches against New Zealand here Wednesday in a match shortened by rain.

New Zealand, who were without star all-rounder Richard Hadlee who failed a fitness test on his injured hamstring, made a shaky start after electing to bat in the day-night match at the Sydney cricket ground, losing four wickets for only 81 runs against the powerful four-pronged Australian pace attack.

Opener Bruce Edgar was comprehensively bowled by Jeff Thomson for 12, leading batsman Glenn Turner was trapped lbw by Dennis Lillee for four and captain Geoff Howarth caught by wicketkeeper Rodney Marsh off Greg Chappell for nine.

When Edgar's opening partner John Wright succumbed to Geoff Lawson for only 36 New Zealand were in trouble before John Morrison (35) and Jeremy Coney (58 not out) pulled in the innings round with an 85-run partnership.

Australia failed by one over to bowl their 50 overs in the time allotted and New Zealand finished with the respectable total of 193.

Lawson returned the best figures for Australia with two for 28 off his 10 overs while Dennis Lillee captured two for 35 off his 10.

New Zealand medium pacer Lance Cairns struck an early blow for his side when he bowled opener Steve Smith with the score at 14 before the rain started.

Australia's target was cut to 150 off 38 overs and captain Kim Hughes quickly set them on course for victory.

Hughes, under heavy fire for his string of poor scores in the one-day series, played some fluent strokes as he raced to 63 off 74 deliveries including seven fours before he fell to a catch by Coney off medium pacer Ewen Chatfield.

By that stage Australia had the match won and were steered to victory by David Hookes, 20 not out, and Greg Chappell who hit an unbeaten 21.

Tough time lies ahead of W. Indian rebels in 3rd 1-day cricket match

PRETORIA (R) — The rebel West Indian cricketers lost two early wickets when set the task of scoring 180 to win in the third one-day cricket match against a South African XI here Wednesday.

At tea, the tourists were 28 for two from 13 overs after South Africa scored 179 for nine in their 50 overs.

Left-arm fast bowler Stephen Jefferies jolted the West Indians with two wickets in successive balls in his fifth over with the score on 21. He had Alvin Greenidge caught at leg slip for 15 and the next ball was edged by Arvin Kallicharran to second slip.

Earlier the South Africans, who won the first two one-day matches, found runs difficult to get on a wicket giving assistance to the West Indian pace attack.

Opener Barry Richards started brightly, cracking three fours. But after he lofted a hook to Sylvester Clarke at first leg and was out for 13, the run rate fell—and so did more wickets.

Captain Peter Kirsten, who had won the toss for the third time in the six-match series, was caught for three and Jimmy Cook, who played and missed at many deliveries, was finally bowled by Ezra Moseley for a laborious 10 runs compiled in 86 minutes.

When Kevin McKenzie, replacing Graeme Pollock who withdrew because of a pulled hamstring, was bowled by Franklin Stephenson for five, South Africa were on a precarious 58 for four and almost half the 50 overs bowled.

Ken McEwan and Alan Kourie, with a stand of 41, staged a minor recovery, but in the first over after lunch McEwan took a wild swing at Collis King and was bowled for 38.

Ray Jennings swung lustily, taking 28 runs off the 35 balls he faced with two fours and two sixes, before edging a ball from Moseley to Derek Murray.



Argentina selects Davis Cup team

BUENOS AIRES (R) — The Argentine Tennis Association Tuesday named Guillermo Vilas, Jose Luis Clerc, Alejandro Ganzabal and Gustavo Tiberti as Argentina's players to face the United States in the first round of this year's Davis Cup tournament.

The tie will be played in Buenos Aires on March 4-6.

The United States, who beat France in last year's final, defeated Argentina in the 1981 final.

Embassy of the United States of America

Notice to all American citizens living in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

American citizens residing in Jordan are requested to visit the American Embassy Consular Section in order to register if they have not done so in the past. Previously registered citizens should telephone or contact the American Consulate to inform it of their continued presence in the country and any change in telephone, address or employment.

The American Embassy is located in Jabal Amman between second and third circles, directly across from Jordan Intercontinental Hotel. The phone number is 44371, P.O. Box 354.

The Consular Section is open to the public 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Sunday thru Thursday.

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Connors nets easy victory over Gerulaitis in \$250,000 tennis match

TORONTO (R) — Jimmy Connors scored an easy 6-0, 6-1 victory over fellow American Vitas Gerulaitis in a \$250,000 men's tennis tournament Tuesday night.

Gem Mayer, a last-minute replacement for Sweden's Bjorn Borg in the Round-Robin tournament, beat fellow-American Brian Gottfried 6-2, 6-0 in the opening match.

In the other group B preliminary match, Peter McNamara of Australia beat Mats Wilander of Sweden 6-1, 3-6, 6-3.

Group A matches are to begin Wednesday night, with the top two players of each group going to

the semi-finals on Saturday.

Borg's withdrawal because of a hand infection was the second by a top name player. Defending champion Ivan Lendl of Czechoslovakia dropped out with a strained right shoulder.

Gerulaitis ranked fifth in the world, failed to hold serve against Connors, last year's Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion.

After double-faulting three times in the final game of the first set—including a point—Gerulaitis took the first game of the second set. He blew a 40-love advantage in the second game.

Connors then reeled off six straight games to take the match.

"He was way off his game," said Connors. "It happens once in a while that you're just completely lost out there. I hit the ball alright and kept catching him off-guard. He never was able to find his stroke."

Gerulaitis said he was not worrying about the possibility of a federal indictment on charges of conspiring to distribute \$20,000 worth of cocaine in New York.

Gerulaitis said he was innocent when he talked to reporters last week.

Fromm beats Kriek in 1st round \$300,000 WCT tournament

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Unseeded Eric Fromm eliminated fifth-seeded Johan Kriek 6-4, 7-6, Tuesday night in the first round of a \$300,000 WCT tennis tournament here.

Fromm, of the U.S., had lost in the first round of six straight previous tournaments. Kriek, a native South African, is a naturalized American.

It was the second major upset in two nights. Monday night unseeded American Mike Bauer eliminated third-seeded Wojciech Fibak of Poland.

Fromm played a steady game, avoiding errors. He almost cost himself the upset when he was serving at 5-4 in the second set. He lost his serve and the two fought their way to the tiebreaker, where Fromm prevailed.

In other matches, fourth-seeded Kevin Curran of South Africa stopped Peter Elter of West Germany, 6-4, 6-2. Sixth-seeded Steve Denton beat fellow American Terry Moor 7-6, 6-4, and Brian Teacher, the eighth

seed, beat Van Wimsky, 6-3, 6-1 in another match between Americans.

Elliot Teltscher (U.S.) defeated Nduka Odizor of Nigeria 6-3, 6-4.

And in other matches between Americans, Bill Scanlon scored a three-set victory over Fritz Buehning 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, and Roscoe Tanner ousted Bruce Manson 6-2, 3-6, 7-5.

Top-seeded John McEnroe plays his opening match Wednesday night. The winner's check for the tournament is \$100,000.

Lotus dedicates new Formula One car to Colin Chapman

LONDON (R) — Lotus unveiled their new Formula One car Tuesday — and the world championship challenger will carry the personal monogram of its creator, the late Colin Chapman, on its nosecone.

The latest Lotus, powered by a Renault turbocharged engine, was masterminded by Chapman before his sudden death in December.

And the team have paid tribute to the master engineer and innovator by signwriting Chapman's initials on to the front of the car.

Team manager Peter Warr said: "We are going to miss his leadership and the quality of his engineering talent. But the people who work for Lotus were trained by him to think the way he thought, and to approach the problems the way he approached them."

"I want us to win the championship and say: 'Colin — that's ours for you!'"

In spite of the loss of Chapman and the fact that Lotus have only one Grand Prix triumph to their credit in the last four years — Italy's Elio de Angelis won in Austria last year — Warr firmly believes that a change in fortune is imminent.

"We have the best available turbo engine, we have no power

disadvantage and we have the best racing rubber on the road. There is no reason why we should not do very well," said Warr.

Gerard Larrousse, in charge of Formula One rivals Renault who have supplied engines for the British team, believes the Lotus 93T will provide a healthy challenge.

"We now have more chance to see a Renault-powered car winning," he said.

In fact, Lotus will have the options of three-litre Ford Cosworth-power and the 1.5 litre Renault until enough turbo engines become available to provide a second 93T for De Angelis's British team mate Nigel Mansell.

American grid-iron football catches British attention

MIAMI (R) — The Washington Redskins and the Miami Dolphins showed interest Tuesday in a proposal for an exhibition replay of the super bowl match the Redskins won last month to become Red-American grid-iron football's 1982 champions.

But both teams said they had not been formally approached and the proposal to play in July was a problem.

The National Football League (NFL), which runs professional grid-iron football in the U.S. and has been trying to promote the sport abroad, signalled its blessing but said August would be a better time. The Dolphins suggested Aug. 20 or 21.

England's Tottenham Hotspur soccer club said Tuesday they hoped to get the Redskins and Dolphins together at London's Wembley stadium in July in a replay of the Jan. 30 super bowl the Redskins won 27-17. Spurs said they would co-promote the game with film producer John Marshall.

American football has captured a wide following in Britain in recent months as a result of weekly television coverage. A live tra-

re-season schedule and would need special permission from the NFL.

NFL spokesman Pete Abitante, who noted that NFL teams had played abroad before in Japan and Mexico, said a July game would be difficult because teams might not be in training camp and there could be contract problems with players.

Homing said: "Obviously we would have to go into the financial package carefully, but we understand Wembley stadium has

been booked for the summer."

Sheene is back in saddle

LONDON (R) — Former world motor cycle champion Barry Sheene is back in the saddle, less than seven months after badly smashing both his legs in a crash at Silverstone.

The British rider completed four laps of the Donington Park racing circuit in a private session Monday and demonstrated his prowess before television cameras Tuesday.

Although snow restricted his appearance, Sheene reported: "I feel good out there on the track again. I got up to 150mph (240kph) and there were no problems, except the cold."

Sheene also allayed fears that he would not be able to push-start his bike. "That was my biggest worry when I was recovering in hospital. I always knew I would race again provided I could push-start the bike all right."

"I have bags of strength and no stamina problems. I feel really good," he said.

Sheene added: "I do not think my recovery is all that remarkable—anyone could do it, it is all in the mind."

"My legs are not as strong as they were but they will be in two or three months time."

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McEnroe's misbehaviour reports shock ITF chief

LONDON (R) — The International Tennis Federation (ITF) president Philippe Charlier of France, said Tuesday he was "flabbergasted" to hear reports of misbehaviour by American John McEnroe in the U.S. professional indoor tennis final in Philadelphia on Sunday.

said.

He admitted that tournament organisers would not want McEnroe disqualified from their events, but denied the supervisors felt that way or that two sets of regulations existed, one for McEnroe and another for the rest.

"There are not two sets of rules.

We rejected that for Borg before and we reject that for McEnroe now," he said.

"The general behaviour on the circuit has improved tremen-

dously because the sup-

ervisors are under instructions to be strong and tough," he said.

But Charlier conceded that the players are becoming bigger than the game. "Apart from three tournaments in the world, the stars are bigger than the sport, and without top personalities and stars the game could be a little boring.

But one of our aims is to control

this."

Charlier said he did not feel anything could have been done to prevent Borg from announcing recently he would retire from the game. "I cannot have a guilty conscience about it. My personal feeling is that something broke in Borg's mind when he lost to McEnroe in the U.S. Open final in 1981.

"Now he knows he cannot win the major events without training and he hates the sight of a training court."

Charlier also spoke briefly about the suit filed by World Championship Tennis (WCT) against the Grand Prix for conspiring to monopolise the sport.

"Unfortunately it will cost a lot of money, even just the lawyers can do."

"But now we will see what it will cost and find out just what we can do," he said.

THE Daily Crossword

by John Greenman

ACROSS	1 Fragrant wood	28 Author Lewis	52 Da Nang holiday	88 Brother	24 Bondie, as demands
6 Spanish artist	29 But Lat. ball	53 Lily plant —colored	54 —Sheds	25 Miss Jaffie	26 Signa's
10 Needle-fishes	30 ball (enjoyed oneself)	55 —	61 Opportunity	27 Blue dye	28 French pronoun
14 In harmony	32 Verboten	62 Robert —	63 Eight: prof.	29 Where St. John's is abbr.</td	

ECONOMY

Hitachi pleads guilty to stealing secrets

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The giant Japanese Hitachi Corporation pleaded guilty Tuesday to conspiring to transport stolen secrets from the American IBM computer company and agreed to pay a \$10,000 fine.

Under an arrangement worked out with U.S. prosecutors, two Hitachi employees also pleaded guilty in the case and were fined respectively \$10,000 and \$4,000.

The guilty pleas came eight months after Hitachi Ltd., another Japanese company, Mitsubishi, and 18 people were accused by U.S. authorities of being involved in a conspiracy to obtain secret information on computers being developed by International Business Machines (IBM).

The Hitachi case was to have come to trial on April 4. Mitsubishi is due to stand trial in San Francisco on July 19.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) set up an elaborate "sting" operation—in which police play the part of criminals—in its investigation into the alleged conspiracy.

A affidavit filed by FBI special agent Kenneth Thompson with the U.S. district court in Santa Clara, California, last June alleged that representatives of Hitachi and Mitsubishi had gone to the offices of an FBI undercover company, Gleannar Associates, in search of IBM secrets.

The FBI also alleged that Hitachi representatives paid for information about IBM products or samples.

Hitachi said in Tokyo at the time it had paid \$546,000 for information, but that it was unaware the information was stolen.

Appearing before the U.S. district court in San Francisco Tuesday, the lawyer for Hitachi, Mr. Peter Fleming, denied that the senior management of Hitachi, which has a consolidated annual revenue of more than \$15 billion, knew of any scheme to transport stolen computer secrets to Japan.

The fine of \$10,000 is the maximum that can be levied for a charge of conspiring to transport stolen goods, U.S. authorities said.

Under the arrangement worked out with U.S. authorities no further criminal charges will be filed against the company.

A senior engineer with the Kanagawa Works of Hitachi, Mr. Kenji Hayashi, 40, was also fined \$10,000. Under an agreement reached with his lawyer, Mr. Hayashi also agreed to five years of unsupervised probation.

Mr. Hayashi, who was in court, also agreed with through an interpreter not to do business for Hitachi in the United States during the five years.

A senior programmer for Hitachi in Japan, Mr. Isao Ohnishi, also pleaded guilty through an interpreter and was fined \$4,000 and placed on unsupervised probation for two years.

Two other Hitachi employees, Mr. Kunitomo Inoue and Mr. Keizo Shirai, were said by Mr. Fleming to have agreed to have their cases resolved without guilty pleas on Feb. 28.

EEC to help rebuild Beirut

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community announced plans Wednesday to help rebuild Beirut's drinking water system which was damaged during the Israeli siege last year.

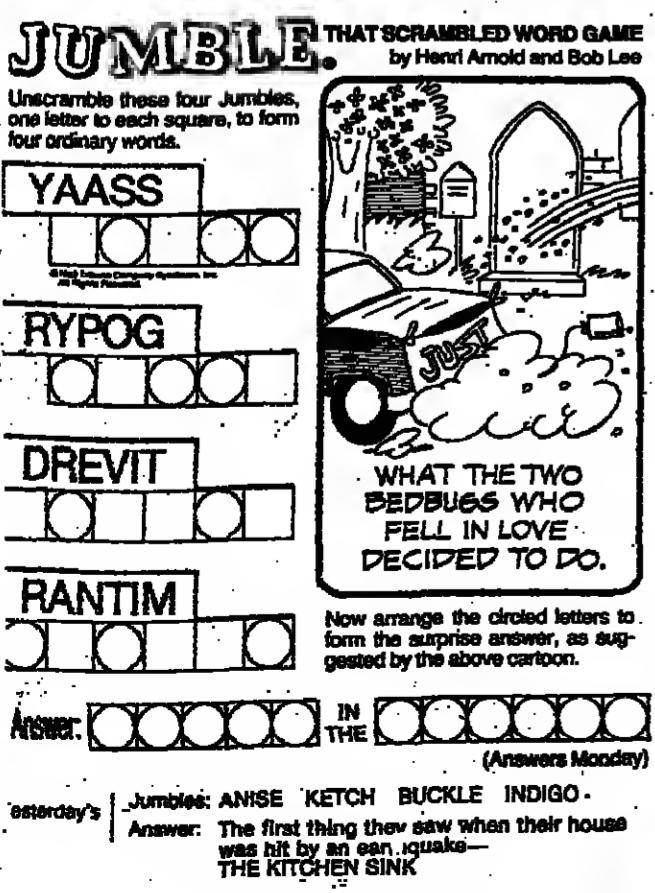
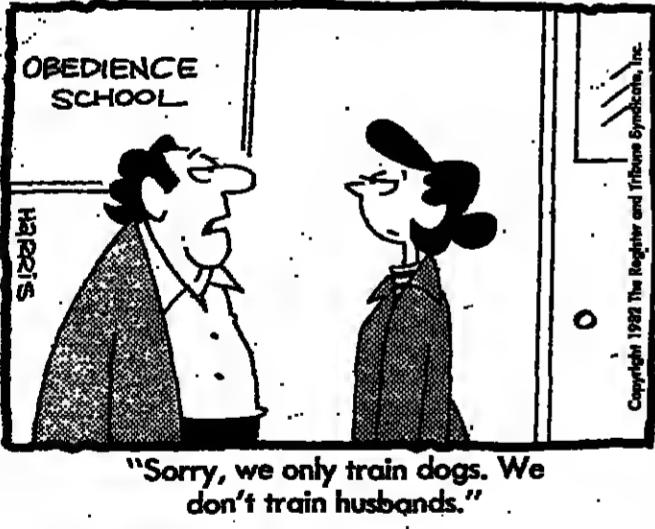
The Community's executive commission said it proposed granting \$20 million for the work.

The Lebanese government is making a \$15 million payment. "An advantage of the scheme is that it would be to the benefit of all, regardless of religious belief," it said in a statement.

Commission officials said the proposal was likely to be approved by Common Market governments in the very near future. The governments decided in December to provide funds for the reconstruction of Lebanon.

Since the Israeli invasion last June, the Community has provided Lebanon with food aid and emergency medical supplies worth almost \$19 million.

THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



NEWS IN BRIEF

USSR to better Aeroflot's services

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Civil Aviation Minister Boris Bugayev announced Wednesday that measures were being taken to improve the state-run airline Aeroflot and make it more economical. Writing in the Communist Party daily Pravda, Marshal Bugayev said there were shortcomings in Aeroflot's freight and passenger services which gave rise to justified criticism.

W. German bankruptcies soar

WIESBADEN, W. Germany (R) — West German corporate bankruptcies soared to a post-war record of 11,916 last year, 40 per cent above the 1981 level, the federal statistics office said Wednesday. The December total was 1,257, the highest monthly figure in the history of the federal republic. The previous record was 1,099 last November.

Iraq buys 50,000 Passat cars

SAO PAULO (R) — Volkswagen do Brasil S.A., subsidiary of the West German auto giant, has negotiated a \$300 million deal to sell 50,000 Passat saloon cars to Iraq, a company spokesman said Tuesday. Volkswagen do Brasil last week announced a \$30 million deal to supply 4,000 "Camper" vans to Algeria.

California faces cashflow problem

SACRAMENTO, California (R) — California, once the most prosperous U.S. state, is so short of money that by later this month it may not be able to pay its employees or give taxpayers the refunds they are owed, according to state leaders. State Controller Ken Cory, who supervises California's finances, said Tuesday night there was an 80 to 90 per cent chance that the state would run out of money by Feb. 23.

Magistrates arrest clergymen

ROME (R) — Magistrates investigating alleged tax corruption have arrested two Roman Catholic clergymen and withdrawn the passports of three others, official sources said Tuesday. The arrest opens a new chapter in a long-running scandal of petrol tax evasion for which 16 people have already been jailed.

U.S. car market rebuilds slowly

DETROIT (R) — Despite three months of rising U.S. car sales, the industry's recovery from recession is slow and there is little sign of a return to work by large numbers of the 265,000 laid-off autoworkers, business analysts said Tuesday. Several car industry managers said a decision by General Motors to recall 21,000 laid-off workers soon was more an attempt to rebuild consumer confidence than an indication that sharp recovery was near.

World interest rates may drop

LONDON (R) — A drop in world interest rates may be on the way, Sir Gordon Richardson, governor of the Bank of England, said Tuesday. "It would be wrong not to hope that we will in fact achieve a lower level of rates, given the progress being made generally in reducing inflation," Sir Gordon said.

Japan to consider aid to Egypt

CAIRO (R) — Japanese foreign ministry adviser Mr. Masaaki Sawaki met President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday and said later that Japan would consider additional economic aid for Egypt. He gave no figures, but Japanese officials accompanying him said Egypt had received a total of \$1.04 billion in soft loans since 1975. The officials said Egypt had received an additional \$700 million in grants and aid during the same period.

Brandt Commission calls for urgent action to aid poor nations

LONDON (R) — Warning of possible anarchy and a slide from recession into repression, an international expert commission called Wednesday for urgent action to aid poor nations and so help revive the world economy.

The group, led by former West German chancellor Mr. Willy Brandt, called for reforms to the international economic and monetary system and emergency action to help debt-burdened countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Especially urgent, it said in a new report, was a big increase in resources of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank to benefit developing countries.

The report accused industrial countries, striving to curb inflation, of "excessive concentration on monetary control, often accompanied by perverse fiscal policies."

It said the plight of developing countries, burdened by crushing debt and low commodity prices, was desperate.

They were part of a wider "spiral of contraction which, without remedial action, could drag the

we are all in the same boat, that the North cannot contemplate with unconcern the fact that South's end of the boat is sinking," the new report said. "The North's end of the boat is already none too buoyant either."

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They were part of a wider "spiral of contraction which, without remedial action, could drag the

countries in the world economy from recession to trade sanctions, withdrawals of credit, competitive devaluations and mutually imposed loss of output..."

"Such a contraction is the start of the descent from recession to depression, which shows little sign of being halted," it said.

Mr. Brandt warned that further economic decline "is likely to cause the disintegration of societies and create conditions of anarchy in many parts of the world."

The 18-member commission proposed remedies covering finance, trade, food, energy and the North-South negotiating process.

It said IMF resources should be boosted by a doubling of lending quotas and a new allocation of reserve assets called Special Drawing Rights (SDR's) to benefit

In the long term, the IMF and World Bank should be reformed "in the direction of greater power-sharing," the report said.

Mr. Brandt called especially for an end to the arms race, on which \$650 billion was spent world-wide in 1982, as a condition for world economic recovery.

YOUR DAILY Horoscope

from the Carroll Righter Institute

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, FEB. 10, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The early part of the day is ideal to organize your thoughts and make plans for the future. A time to avoid confrontations since a series of fixed adversities could follow.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Attend to important duties early in the day so you'll have more time for social activities later. Be more optimistic.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) The time is not right for taking on new responsibilities. Sidestep one who is detrimental to your progress.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Take steps to patch up any differences with an associate. Study your financial position and make plans to improve it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Contact a wise and older friend for advice you need. You can make an excellent impression on higher-ups now.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Important business matter is best handled early in the day. Analyze your activities and be sure you are as practical as you should be.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Begin the day wisely by keeping any promises you have made. Go to the right sources for the information you need.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Try to economize more so you won't be caught in a financial pinch in the future. Steer clear of a group meeting today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) An associate can help you solve a difficult problem in the morning. Show increased devotion to loved one.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Positive thinking will help you gain your aims at this time. You can make a fine impression on others now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Put those creative ideas to work now and get excellent results. Avoid one who has an eye on your assets.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Find out what family members desire of you and then do your best to please them. Show others you have wisdom.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Listen to ideas of a long-time friend and follow through for good benefits. Make as many new contacts as you can.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who can become a great success in life because of the ability to understand the needs of others. One with a retentive mind, so be sure to give the best education you can afford. Don't neglect ethical training.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, FEB. 11, 1983

GENERAL TENDENCIES: A day and evening to do something thoughtful for loved ones. Also, a good time to make plans that could give you more abundance in the future. Take positive steps to gain your aims.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Being with friends and improving the association is fine today. Take pains to handle routine tasks in an efficient manner.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Show appreciation to those who have power over our affairs and gain further goodwill. Use modern methods to improve your work.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) See what you can do about enlarging your vision so that you can advance in your line of endeavor. Be wise.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to July 21) Take no risks with your health at this time. Handle responsibilities more efficiently and they become easier.

LEO (July 22 to Aug. 21) Support those associates who need your assistance at this time. Listen to complaints of family members and give help where needed.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have to be more enthused if you are to get all that work done that is important to you. Strive for increased happiness.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Take time to put your business and financial affairs in better order. Be sure to keep promises you have made to others.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Be more considerate of the needs of family members and establish more harmony at home. Avoid one who gossips too much.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Discuss your views with associates and improve regular routines. Plan how to gain your most cherished aims.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Study your financial position and then confer with experts in order to improve it. Take no risks in motion at this time.

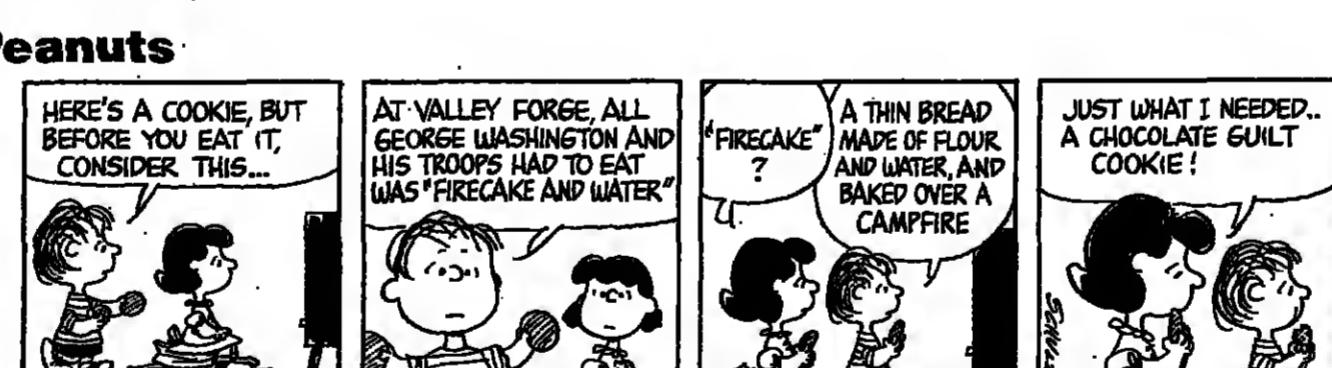
AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Use tact with others and they soon will give you the favors you desire. The evening is fine for social pleasures.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) You are able to communicate well with associates and can advance in career matters. Sidestep a troublemaker.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will be one who will quickly adopt to new methods and systems, so send to the finest modern schools you can afford for best results in lifetime. There's a fine balance of mind and athletic activity in this chart.

"The Stars impel, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!

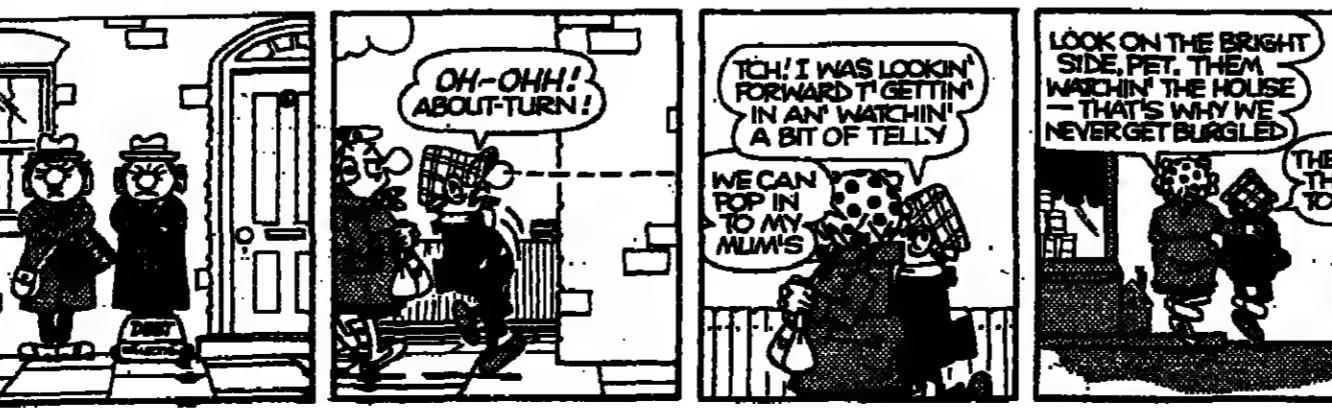
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



WORLD

'Lebanon suffered most in 1982'

WASHINGTON (R) — The massacre of hundreds of Palestinians in Beirut gave Lebanon one of the world's worst human rights records last year, according to the Reagan administration.

In its annual report on human rights, issued Tuesday, a chapter on Israel noted eyewitness reports that Israeli troops allowed Lebanese militia into the two refugee camps where the killings took place in September.

right-wing authoritarian governments generally improved in 1982 but harsh conditions persisted in Communist states.

The report said Iran's revolutionary government persisted with torture and summary executions and, in its war with Iraq, sacrificed children as young as nine years old in human wave attacks and in clearing minefields.

Survivors dismiss report

BEIRUT (R) — Survivors of the Beirut massacre of hundreds of Palestinians dismissed the findings of an Israeli inquiry into the killings as a farce which would never compensate them for the death of family and friends.

In interviews conducted among the rubble and mud of the Sabra' and Shatila refugee camps where the killings occurred, some said Israeli Defence Minister Ariel Sharon should be executed for his role in the massacre.

Israeli intelligence officers have estimated that between 700 and 800 civilians died last September

after Israel allowed right-wing Lebanese Christian militiamen into the camps.

This followed Israel's invasion of Lebanon and advance to Beirut, which forced the evacuation of Palestinian guerrillas from the city.

"Even if the whole Israeli government resigned, it wouldn't bring back my family," said Milhem Al-Bourji, a 54-year-old worker who said he lost three relatives including his only son in one night of terror. "It's all a farce."

A potato-seller on Sabra's rutted and filth-strewn main street declared: "All the animals who slaughtered our women and children should be killed, with Sharons at their head."

But several people seemed indifferent to the commission's report, saying it was purely an Israeli internal matter.

Some said they had not heard any news of it, despite the fact that it was a major item on local radio bulletins.

A sandwich seller, pressed for a

response, shrugged and said: "The fact is that there should never have been such criminals in the Israeli government, but it's too late now."

The camps, which merge into Lebanese slums, are teeming with life, but have been largely ignored in Beirut's major clean-up operation following last summer's fighting.

The two-storey houses, which residents say were bulldozed by the killers, still stand half-ruined.

The main street, smelling of sewage, is so rutted that cars can barely pass. Women with plastic jerry-cans queue for water at a tap in the middle of a main road.

In Lebanon, which has a history of sectarian massacres, the subject of who did the killing is still taboo in political conversation.

The camp-dwellers say they still feel insecure and ignored despite the presence in Sabra and Shatila of French and Italian troops, who came here with U.S. Marines in the wake of the massacres to protect Beirut's civilian population.

Iraqi general describes 'decisive battle of war'

IRAQI FOURTH ARMY CORPS HEADQUARTERS (R)

Iraq hurled an armoured division and massed infantry against Iraqi defenders in a new and bloody battle of their 29-month Gulf War Wednesday, the Iraqi battlefield commander said.

Lt.-Gen. Hisham Sabah Al-Fakhi told reporters his Fourth Corps broke two attacks Tuesday

as Iranian forces apparently tried to advance into southeast Iraq in a major new offensive, which both sides have said could be the decisive battle of the war.

But the general said that around midday (0900 GMT) Wednesday the Iranians resumed their offensive and attacked again with armour, regular troops and Islamic revolutionary guards along a front of 30 to 40 kilometres.

"I believe this will be a battle lasting four or five days. This battle will be cruel on both sides," he said.

Talking to reporters four hours after he said the attack had started, Gen. Al-Fakhi added that the fighting was still outside the Iraqi front line along the border.

The battle zone is east of Amara, capital of Iraq's Misan province.

"We have a map from one prisoner showing that the main objective is to get to Amara," Gen. Al-Fakhi said.

The general, who did not disclose Iraqi losses, said Iranian casualties had been very heavy. Iraq had counted 7,000 dead but he estimated Iran had lost 15,000 men.

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